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promise of the editors that it shall be logical and minute, and, coupled with the cross references with which it is accompanied, affords the means of examining particular phases of the subject without waste of time.

In competing for a place in a field already pretty well occupied by works of the cyclopedic type, the peculiar plan of the "Cyclopedia of Law and Procedure" of treating each topic in its entirety, as heretofore pointed out, ought to be, and the writer believes will be, a valuable aid. Whether the promise of the editor that "many of the articles shall be written or examined and approved by men of marked learning and skill in the particular subjects edited by them," will be an additional aid, depends upon the scope of the promise, which as expressed may mean much or little, and the fidelity with which the promise in its enlarged sense is kept.

ROBT. E. BUNKER

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PAGE ON WILLS—A concise treatise on the Law of Wills. By William Herbert Page, Professor of Law in Ohio State University. 1 Volume. W. H. Anderson & Co., Cincinnati, Ohio. 1901.

The writer of this work states in its preface that it is written both for the student and the practitioner. A review of any literary work which loses sight of the object for which it is claimed to have been published would be unsatisfactory, and, if a general criticism, very unfair.

From the view point of the writer, then, his work will be briefly considered.

The branch of the law treated by Mr. Page is one, which, considering its importance, has attracted few great law writers. A first-class text-book upon this subject will be appreciated by the profession. Within the last twenty-five years there has been large growth along certain lines in this branch of the law, particularly in respect to the law of devises and legacies, powers and testamentary trusts. It is to be greatly doubted whether the entire subject of wills can now be satisfactorily condensed into one volume which will be received as standard authority by the profession. For this reason alone, the work under consideration, taken as a whole, does not fulfil the claim of its author for the general use of the practitioner. Although this is true of the book as a whole, yet in introducing some excellent chapters on the subject of probate and contest of wills, the author is entitled to great credit. About two hundred pages are devoted to this branch of the subject, which, with the well-considered notes and numerous citations, make up the most useful and practical portions of the book to the active practitioner. In no other volume on wills will the probate lawyer find so great an amount of this valuable material collected and classified. To such a lawyer, for this feature, Mr. Page's work will be acceptable and very valuable.

In the matter of the primary object of the work, to provide for the student a satisfactory text-book upon the subject, the writer has been very successful. That the author is also a teacher is in evidence throughout the work. All who are actively engaged in teaching in the law schools, understand that a principle cannot be stated in language too simple and concise, or be too often repeated to the students. With the text-writer, the first of these accomplishments makes his work most acceptable, while the second renders it tiresome. This author as to the first is to be congratulated upon his ability to make

statements of principles in language clear, concise and accurate. In the matter of repetition, however, he has been unable to put the lecture room entirely out of sight. The fault is one which experience in book-writing will doubtless cure.

The student will find the subject matter of the book arranged satisfactorily. The injection of the chapters on probate and contest into the middle of the work is not confusing, although it would have been more artistic if they had been placed as the closing chapters.

The chapter on the history of wills is too condensed for a text-book. Twice the space devoted to this subject would have been better, and of great service to the student and general reader. No criticism of what this chapter contains is intended. After reading it there is something of a feeling of disappointment, because it is so suggestive of what the literature of the subject contains.

The work of the author throughout the book shows no spurts of effort, nor bursts of fluency for effect. The book has been produced by hard and sustained work.

If a general criticism were offered, it would be that the work was performed in too great haste. Products of the brain, as well as of the factories, require thorough seasoning before being put upon the market. This work will fill a place among the text-books of the student, and fill it well. It is in fact a product of the work of the law school. The student recognizes the forms of statement familiar to the lecture room. His friendly attention is gained from the start, and he reads the book with an interest which is spontaneous.

The arrangement of the subject matter is such that it can be studied as a whole, or taken up by topics. The law of wills has been defined as an aggregation of rules of construction, applied by the courts for the astonishment of the bar. No student after reading this volume will ever be tempted to repeat this definition in earnest.

A. V. MCALVAY

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THE LAW OF INSURANCE AS APPLIED TO FIRE, LIFE, ACCIDENT, GUARANTY AND OTHER NON-MARITIME RISKS.—By John Wilder May. Fourth edition, revised, analyzed and greatly enlarged by John M. Gould. Two volumes. Boston: Little, Brown & Co., 1900, pp. xciv, 1510. 8vo.

A TREATISE ON THE LAW OF INSURANCE, INCLUDING FIRE, LIFE, ACCIDENT, CASUALTY, TITLE, CREDIT AND GUARANTY INSURANCE IN EVERY FORM.—By Charles B. Elliott, Ph.D., LL.D., Judge of the District Court of Minnesota, author of "Public Corporations" and "Private Corporations." Indianapolis: The Bowen-Merrill Company, 1902, pp. lvi, 531. 8vo.

To paraphrase a well-known quotation, "Of the making of many books on Insurance there is no end, and much study of some of them is a weariness to the flesh."

The past ten years has afflicted the lawyers of the United States with seventeen octavo volumes of text-books on this highly specialized subject, ten of which have appeared since 1897.